

**Draft of the Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2009
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine**

Meeting opened at 12:35 p.m.

Board members present: Chairman George McHale, Cushing Samp and Peter Danton
Excused: Larry Hall and Richard Arnold

Staff members present: Exec.Director Robert Welch, Auditor Scott Woods, Det. Don Armstrong, Sgt. Bill Gomane and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain

Legal counsel: Bill Stokes, Deputy A.G.

MINUTES FROM 11/4/2009 MEETING

Motion to accept: Cushing Samp

Seconded: Peter Danton

Vote: 3-0

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – ROBERT WELCH

Bangor P.D. Calls - Bob advised that Bangor PD received only five calls for service to the facility. Two of those calls were off the floor (1 – motor vehicle accident, 1 erratic operation of a vehicle). Comparing that to a headcount of 110,070 for the month of November is quite remarkable.

Signage Update Memo – Hollywood Slots has upgraded their mandatory signage for Responsible Gaming and posted it in three places within the facility. They have installed huge red boards that contain pamphlets and the 800# to call for help with problem gaming. The 800# when called, automatically redials to 2-1-1-, the contact phone # for Maine. A document showing a picture of the signs was given to the Board members.

Transition Report – Mr. Welch's position is included in the proposed budget cuts and as such, he is working on a document that will identify several areas of responsibility for whoever will be taking on these responsibilities. He has also talked some with the current Gambling staff as to these responsibilities. More to come.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – AUDITOR SCOTT WOODS

The Board has received the latest revenue sheets from Scott. The distribution of 2% to OTBs ended and is now only 1%. The General Fund is now receiving 4% instead of 3%. The overall total amount to beneficiaries is still 39%.

STATE POLICE ACTIVITY UPDATE – SGT. BILL GOMANE

Since the last Board meeting in November, the Gambling Control Unit has processed 26 new applications, with 32 pending suitability investigations. MSP has had six investigations at the Facility. One is a criminal case that is pending, one was a policy violation pending.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IGT Digi Deal Machines – the request has been withdrawn by Hollywood Slots to have these machines.

NEW BUSINESS

Complaint #09 – 1101-01

It is the recommendation of the Complaint Committee (Bob Welch, Bill Stokes and Lt. Bowler) that this complaint be closed without a hearing.

Motion: Cushing motioned to accept the recommendations re: this complaint be closed.

Seconded by Peter Danton

Vote: 3-0.

BUDGET CUTS – COMMISSIONER JORDAN

Commissioner Jordan addressed the Board. She advised that the Governor will be issuing a proposed supplemental budget on Friday that will include more cuts. She has no knowledge yet on his decisions. If Mr. Welch's position is indeed eliminated, the responsibilities of it will move to the Weapons and Gaming unit. WHO it's going to has not been determined yet. She has to wait until the Governor makes his final decision. Even if the position is NOT cut, and Mr. Welch leaves anyway, she would have to get a waiver to fill his vacancy. She did report that State revenues for 2009 have dropped 1.3 billion.

Public Comments

Fritz Bentnzer, Editor of the Christian Monitor, addressed the Board, specifically Chairman McHale. He wanted to know about McHale's association being a broadcaster at WVOM where Hollywood Slots also advertises and the impropriety of it. Mr. McHale replied that he has no association at work with the PR folks. He receives no monies from Hollywood Slots and has done no advertising for them. He does not promote HS on the air.

Mr. Bentnzer was also concerned that a certain name associated with the facility was also a known surname that was associated with organized crime. He was asked if he was trying to report that a certain ethnicity was related to organized crime, to which he had no response. He did give some information to Sgt. Gomane as he made his way back to his seat.

Peter Danton advised that he is resigning from the Board. He's going to send a letter to the Governor, advising him of such. Larry Hall, board member, has not been well and Peter is unsure if Larry will also be continuing. Peter feels the Governor should ramp up a new board to address all future dealings with gambling in Maine.

No January meeting planned for the time being.

Adjournment at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chamberlain, secretary